

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250102 TOSEC 290054

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AHERNF

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MISCELLANY

1. JESSE JACKSON -- LARRY AND I HAD BREAKFAST WITH JACKSON THIS MORNING, AT HIS REQUEST. HE WAS VERY UPBEAT ABOUT YOUR MEETING WITH THE BLACK LEADERS ON TUESDAY; HE FELT, LOOKING BACK OVER HIS SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH YOU, THAT THE DIALOGUE HAD COME A LONG WAY IN A SHORT TIME.

2. AS HE HAS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, HE STRESSED THE POINT THAT "THERE ARE TRIBES AMONG THE BLACK COMMUNITIES IN AMERICA JUST AS IN AFRICA." HE MAKES A STRONG DISTINCTION BETWEEN ELECTED BLACK OFFICIALS, THE BLACK PRESS, AND THOSE IN POSITIONS LIKE HIS; WHAT HE SEEMS TO BE SAYING IS THAT HE AND OTHERS LIKE JORDAN AND SULLIVAN HAVE A CLEAR AND UNDILUTED INTEREST IN ADVANCING PROGRESS FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY (ALONG WITH THEIR PERSONAL AMBITIONS), WHILE BLACK JOURNALISTS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

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HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL AXES TO GRIND -- AND THAT WE

SHOULD BE WARY. HE SUGGESTED FOR EXAMPLE THAT WE CONSIDER NOT HAVING WORKING PRESS IN AT LEAST SOME FUTURE MEETINGS WITH BLACK LEADERS. PRESS PARTICIPATION MEANS THAT SOME WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE PARTICULAR POSITIONS

RATHER THAN ENGAGE IN A FREE EXCHANGE. HE GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT SUTTON'S DECLARATION, AT THE TUESDAY MEETING, ABOUT RECIPROCITY IN VISA POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH AFRICA. SUTTON HAD EARLIER BEEN CRITICIZED BY CHUCK STONE OF THE WASHINGTON STAR -- WHO WAS ALSO AT THE MEETING -- FOR INDICATING THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT A VISA FOR SOUTH AFRICA WITHOUT INSISTING THAT ANY AMERICAN BLACK BE GIVEN A VISA UPON REQUEST. SO, IN JACKSON'S WORDS, SUTTON HAD TO MAKE HIS LITTLE SPEECH, FOR STONE'S BENEFIT, ABOUT VISA RECIPROCITY; IT ADDED NOTHING TO YOUR MEETING AND WASN'T EVEN ADDRESSED TO YOU.

3. JACKSON ALSO SUGGESTED THAT YOU HAVE SEPARATE BRIEFINGS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN BLACK PRESS. HE SAID YOU HAD MENTIONED IN YOUR FIRST MEETING THAT YOU WERE PUZZLED OVER THE LACK OF ATTENTION TO YOUR FIRST AFRICAN TRIP IN THE BLACK PRESS, AND THAT HE HAD LOOKED INTO IT AND CONCLUDED THAT THE EXPLANATION WAS SIMPLY THAT VERY FEW WRITERS FOR THE BLACK MEDIA HAD ANY IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF, OR INTEREST IN, FOREIGN POLICY. THUS, NOT BEING COMFORTABLE WITH THE SUBJECT, THEY TENDED TO AVOID IT.

4. HE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT YOU EXPAND THE DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS WITH BLACK LEADERS TO INCLUDE A BROAD RANGE OF FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. HAVING BEGUN TO BRING THE DEPTRTMENT INTO CONTACT WITH BLACK AMERICANS ON AN ISSUE OF SPECIAL CONCERN, HE FELT BOTH SIDES WOULD BENEFIT BY BROADENING THE BASE TO INCLUDE OTHER ISSUES.

5. FINALLY, JACKSON AND A GROUP OF HIS ASSOCIATES WANT TO GO TO AFRICA, AND THEY WANT OUR HELP IN ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. JACKSON WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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GET BACK TO US WITH A LIST OF THOSE HE WOULD PROPOSE BE INCLUDED IN THE GROUP, AND IDEALLY HE WOULD LIKE US TO ENCOURAGE INVITATIONS TO THEM FROM THE PRESIDENTS. IN ELLIPTICAL FASHION, HE IMPLIED THE GROUP OUGHT TO BE PURELY PRIVATE -- I.E., SANS DIGGS. THE GROUP, WHICH WOULD PAY ITS OWN WAY, WOULD IN JACKSON'S VIEW BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY WITH MORE AUTHORITY ON AFRICAN POLICY IF THEY WERE ABLE TO BASE THEIR VIEWS

ON PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENTS RATHER THAN EXCLUSIVELY ON DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OBVIOUS RISKS INVOLVED IN ASSISTING AN ENTERPRISE OF THIS SORT , WE THINK IT IS WORTH CONSIDERATION AND WILL DISCUSS IT WITH YOU UPON YOUR RETURN.

6. NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE -- YOU INSTRUCTED THAT WE SCHEDULE THE CONFERENCE FOR NOVEMBER 18. YOU ARE ALSO SCHEDULED TO SPEAK TO THE CONFERENCE BOARD IN NEW YORK AT LUNCH ON THAT DAY. SINCE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE WOULD BE LIMITED TO SPEAKING TO THE GROUP AT 9:15 IN THE MORNING, AND HOSTING AN EVENING RECEPTION, YOU COULD DO BOTH IT AND THE CONFERENCE BOARD ON NOV. 18. BUT THAT WOULD MEAN TWO PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS ON THE SAME DAY, AND YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER RESCHEDULING THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEETING FOR EITHER WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 OR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF PARTICIPATION AND MEDIA COVERAGE, WEDNESDAY WOULD BE marginally preferable. IN ANY CASE, JANE POINTS OUT THAT YOUR AGREEING TO SPEAK AT 9:15 MIGHT PREEMPT YOUR NORMAL MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO SPEAK TO THE CONFERENCE LATER IN THE PROGRAM.

7. THIMMESCH INTERVIEW REQUEST -- NICK THIMMESCH OF NEWSDAY CALLED TO SAY HE HAD NOT SEEN YOU AFTER ALL IN NEW YORK ON TUESDAY EVENING AND ASKED THAT I RAISE AGAIN WITH YOU THE QUESTION OF YOUR DOING A BRIEF IN-PERSON OR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH HIM. HE HAS PREPARED AN ARTICLE ANALYZING FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS FOR PUBLICATION (AFTER THE ELECTION) IN POTOMAC MAGAZINE. HE WANTS TO ACCOMPANY THIS
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ARTICLE WITH A "BOX" INTERVIEW GIVING YOUR COMMENTARY ON THOSE DEVELOPMENTS. FUNSETH THOUGHT YOU SHOULD NOT GIVE THE INTERVIEW WITHOUT SEEING THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE. I DO NOT SEE COMPELLING REASONS FOR OR AGAINST THE INTERVIEW; IF YOU DO WISH TO DO IT, I SUGGEST YOU AUTHORIZE ME OR FUNSETH TO CONTACT THIMMESCH AND TELL HIM YOU WILL DO IT IF YOU CAN SEE THE ARTICLE FIRST. WE WILL THEN TRY TO WORK A TIME INTO YOUR SCHEDULE.

8. NASHVILLE, ET AL -- THE PROSPECTIVE NASHVILLE AUDIENCE FOR THE OCTOBER 24 U.N. DAY CELEBRATION WOULD INCLUDE A VERY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND FACULTY. IN LIGHT OF THAT, AND BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE OTHER PRODUCTIVE EVENTS ON A SUNDAY, I SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER OTHER ALTERNATIVES. WE

HAVE SEVERAL PRIME POSSIBILITIES:

A. CLARK MACGREGOR HAD INVITED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN SOMETHING CALLED THE ANNUAL EXECUTIVE FORUM SPONSORED BY THE CONNECTICUT WORLD AFFAIRS CENTER IN HARTFORD. THIS IS A TYPICAL "LEADERSHIP GROUP" KIND OF GATHERING

AND OCTOBER 26 OR OCTOBER 27 ARE THE PREFERRED DATES. THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS ONE IS THAT IT IS A SPECIFIC INVITATION, NOT GENERATED BY US, IN A DENSELY POPULATED AREA WITH FIRST-CLASS MEDIA COVERAGE. A SEVERE DISADVANTAGE IS THAT WILL BE A RELATIVELY SMALL, BUT ELITE GROUP, NUMBERING ABOUT 200.

B. CLEVELAND OR SAN DIEGO -- THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL-TYPE GROUPS IN BOTH CITIES HAVE BEEN PERSISTENTLY INTERESTED IN HAVING YOU APPEAR. THEIR LEVEL OF ENTHUSIASM HAS BEEN SUCH THAT I BELIEVE WE COULD EASILY GENERATE A LETTER INVITING YOU FOR A SPECIFIC DATE OF YOUR PREFERENCE. BOTH CITIES ARE GOOD MEDIA CENTERS AND BOTH ARE IN POLITICALLY CRITICAL STATES -- WITH OHIO A PARTICULARLY EVENLY MATCHED SITUATION, ACCORDING TO MOST ANALYSES.

9. YOU MAY HAVE HEARD PRESS REPORTS OF THE OUTCOME OF SENATOR HUMPHREY'S OPERATION THIS AFTERNOON. IF HE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNABLE TO TAKE TELEPHONE CALLS, YOU MAY WANT TO SEND SOMETHING ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR HUBERT:

I GATHER FROM THE NEWS REPORTS THAT YOU HAVE EMERGED FROM SIX HOURS OF SURGERY WITH A GOOD PROGNOSIS. I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW CHEERING THIS NEWS IS. TO SAY THAT AMERICA NEEDS THE LEADERSHIP, BOTH MORAL AND POLITICAL, WHICH YOUR CONTINUED SERVICE PROVIDES, IS MASSIVE UNDERSTATEMENT. NANCY AND I BOTH REJOICE AT THE NEWS, AND SEND YOU AND MURIEL OUR BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY -- AND A PROMPT RETURN TO THE FIRING LINE.

WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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